

LITTLE COMPTON SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting – October 13, 2010

Wilbur School Commons – 7:00 pm

Members Present: Chairman Tom Alder, Superintendent Kathy Crowley, Principal Jim Gibney, Margaret Manning, Jacob Talbot, Ben Gauthier, Mark Rapp, Mike Steers, Dorie Freeman, John Osbourne, Micah Shapiro, Bob Mushen, Lynn Brousseau-Lebreux

Members Absent: BG Shanklin, Beryl Borden, Dave MacGregor, Don Gomez, Tom Arkins

The Firm of Durkee Brown Architects was in attendance, represented by Doug Brown and Ed Cifune.

Chairman Tom Alder called the Meeting to Order at 5:12 pm

A motion was made by Micah Shapiro, and seconded by Jim Gibney, to approve the Meeting Minutes of 9/27/10, 9/29/10 and 10/6/10, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Business

Approval of the Educational Specification:

A discussion took place on the project scope and budget, including the implication of a failed referendum or postponement of submission of the project application to RIDE. Mike Steers stated that the Committee perhaps should take another look at reducing the scope of work or offering an alternative to the proposed design. Mike also suggested that clearly defining the newly proposed space vs renovation of existing space and stating the implications of not constructing identified areas would be helpful for the public in understanding and making an informed decision on the referendum approval. Mike stated that present utility costs have not been documented for comparison to the future projected utility costs of new, energy efficient systems and windows included in the proposed renovation design.

Ed Cifune explained that from day one of exploring the possibility of renovations, teachers and staff were consulted about what they educationally need as well as what they would like to see constructed. This information, along with the educational requirements from RIDE, was the force behind the conceptual design plan. Doug Brown explained that the State educational requirements must be met in order to receive project reimbursement.

Bob Mushen stated that communication to the public thus far has been the proposed physical changes to the building, but that the educational requirements for these changes have been left out of the

message, such as the present need have teachers manning 3 separate periods during lunch due to the limited size of the cafeteria for 309 children, when lunches could be reduced to 2 periods. Kathy Crowley will work with Bob Mushen on the best approach for educating the public on the need of this project. Ed offered any help from his firm on the public communication task. Tom Alder questioned the task of pushing the project through without having more than a week of knowing the total cost.

The reduction of the project scope discussion continued amongst the Committee members, with concern regarding the time line of application submission, the time frame of construction starting and ending. Doug Brown explained that the application does not need to be complete, but it must be submitted to RIDE by the November 19, 2010 deadline or the entire process would need to begin again. Submitting the application by the deadline gives the town an opportunity for a second referendum, should the first one fail.

The importance of contingency funds as an insurance policy for the project was discussed as well as escalation of site costs for delaying the project, and the requirement of starting the entire process over if the November 19, 2010 Stage II application deadline to RIDE is not met.

There is a meeting scheduled for October 26, 2010 with the State Fire Marshal's Office to discuss the school safety issues, violations and upcoming variance expiration date of December 31, 2010. The

information coming from this meeting will be essential in the discussions of possible scaling back the project. Micah Shapiro feels that a number closer to \$14M for the total project, not the \$28M projected, would be a much more comfortable number for the public to support. There was continued discussion on scaling back the proposed project and the educational implications of that movement.

The Chair asked the Committee to vote on the Educational Specification Document. A Motion was made by Mark Rapp, 2nd by Micah Shapiro to approve the Educational Specification Document.

Discussions continued with concerns for voting on a document by the Committee that possibly should be voted on by the School Committee first. Mike Steers stated that the document addresses the school deficiencies, both for safety and educationally, but he is not convinced that the Stage II Application submitted will address these issues. Ed cautioned that all the documents submitted during this design and application phase compliment each other, that they cannot stand alone, but are designed to work together to show the entire picture. Micah Shapiro stated that the Committee was fine with the design until the projected cost was announced. Ed stated that there would be no harm in the committee delaying a vote on the design, but that it is crucial for the School Committee to approve the Educational Specification Document at a scheduled meeting this evening at 6:30 pm. When asked, Principal Jim Gibney and Superintendent Kathy Crowley would recommend the Educational

Specification Document to the School Building Committee as well as the School Committee. Kathy Crowley stressed that it is no longer just about producing good test scores that the No Child Left Behind Act has made it essential for schools to constantly improve every year. There is a team coming to the school in March, and she is very concerned with the result of an assessment report, especially for the lack of privacy available for student assessment, hazardous materials present such as asbestos and fire safety. The library can no longer be used for public meetings due to fire codes. There is a tank sitting in a closet on the first floor that is constantly in standing water and the locker room ceiling contains water stains. The Superintendent stated that she is astounded at the lack of repair and upkeep over the years, and that she is very worried for the children of Little Compton if the Bond does not pass to make these repairs and improvements. There was discussions on written documentation from RIDE as to the educational requirements for schools in RI. Dorie Freeman stated that the document information did not contain much input from the teachers. The architects as well as the Principal strongly disagreed with Dorie's statement. Jim Gibney stated that the document had been discussed extensively with staff, a copy has been in his office and he has had group and individual discussions with teachers regarding the document.

After a discussions continued on whether the Building Committee or the School Committee should vote on the Ed. Spec first, Mark Rapp withdrew his motion to accept the document, Micah Shapiro withdrew

his 2nd to the motion. The Building Committee did not take any votes, as members had left the meeting and there was no quorum.

A motion to adjourn at 6:30 pm was made by Jacob Talbot, 2nd by John Osbourne. There were no additional meetings scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Rom, Clerk

LCSBC